

MRS. BRIGHAM DENIES

She Swears Bates Did Not Give Her \$150 a Week.

Neither Did He Pay the Rent of Her Flat.

Were the Merchant's Heirs After the Insurance Money?

The trial of the suit of Samuel H. Millard against Mrs. Frances G. Brigham, before Judge Furber, in the City Court, has brought out some remarkable facts in regard to the private affairs of the late Levi M. Bates, the dry goods merchant who was drowned in the East River while out rowing with his son in 1901.



MRS. F. G. BRIGHAM.

The action is brought to recover a 10 per cent. commission on an insurance policy for \$20,000 on the life of Mr. Bates, which Mrs. Bates had made in favor of Mrs. Brigham, who lives at 22 West One Hundred and Sixteenth street. Of this policy Mr. Millard, the plaintiff, claims that he collected \$18,000 from the Fidelity and Casualty Company, and paid it over to Mrs. Brigham.

She promised him, he says, a commission of 10 per cent., which she has failed to pay. The amount claimed to be due on this agreement is \$1,800.

Mrs. Brigham, on the other hand, says that she collected the money without the assistance of Mr. Millard, who is an insurance broker, and that the present suit is only brought to annoy her and the family of Mr. Bates.

The peculiar feature of the case is that the suit disclosed the fact for the first time that Mrs. Brigham held a policy on the life of Mr. Bates. The defendant is the divorced wife of Robert Brigham, a Boston hotel-keeper, and is a handsome woman of about forty.

In the husband's suit for divorce it had come out that Mr. Bates was named as co-defendant. The merchant at that time was known to Mr. Brigham and his friends as Mr. Bates of New York.

After Mrs. Brigham lost her divorce case in Boston she came to New York to live. It was shortly after that that Mr. Bates took out an insurance policy in the Fidelity and Casualty Company in favor of Mrs. Brigham.

She had been a profound secret up to the present time. When the trial was resumed this morning, Mrs. Brigham was asked to produce the policy. She refused to do so, and a writ of subpoena was issued for her to produce it.



SAMUEL H. MILLARD.

"Didn't you tell Mr. Millard that Mr. Bates had been paying the rent of your flat and giving you an allowance of \$150 a week, and that was all you had?" "No, sir," Mrs. Brigham replied.

"Didn't you say that you could not get anything out of this policy you didn't know what you should do?"

Mrs. Brigham said that she understood the only questions involved in collecting the policy were the commission and that those she had submitted to her lawyers before she ever saw Mr. Millard.

Her lawyers said that on Oct. 1, 1901, at which the death of Mr. Bates and the insurance policy were talked over, but nothing was said about employing Mr. Millard to collect the amount from the insurance company. It was merely a social call, she said.

Herbert F. Brigham, a brother of the defendant, who was also present at the meeting of Oct. 22, said that Mr. Millard tried to persuade his sister to employ a Philadelphia lawyer to collect the policy.

"I told Mr. Millard," said the witness, "that my sister's interests were fully protected, and she had already retained counsel."

There was anything said about employing Mr. Millard.

"Nothing that I remember," said Mr. Millard. He appeared to be acting for the family of Mr. Bates.

"That was my impression," said Mr. Millard. He appeared to transfer his interest in the policy to the family of Mr. Bates.

"That is a very difficult thing for any one to do," remarked Judge Furber. "Yes, but he didn't make any such offer."

John H. Abney, a lawyer, started in to give a history of his connection with the case. When lawyer Hirshey objected that he was not testifying according to the rules of evidence.

"That is a very difficult thing for any one to do," remarked Judge Furber. "Yes, but he didn't make any such offer."

CLAIMED BY BOTH WOMEN.

Steward Riehl Arrested on Ship-board for Bigamy.

He Accepts Margaret, but Denies Lizzie's Story.

Lawrence L. Riehl, a well-dressed young man, was arraigned before Justice Connolly, in the Gates Avenue Police Court, Brooklyn, this morning, on a charge of bigamy.

Riehl, who is a steward in the employ of the Clyde Steamship Company, was arrested on board the ship Cherokee, at 2 o'clock this morning, by Court Officer Richard Cleary. He was much surprised when the officer informed him upon what charge he was being taken into custody.

Two well-dressed young women appeared against the steward when he was brought before the Justice. One of them declared that she was Margaret Riehl, and stated that she married the prisoner three years ago. At that time she was then Margaret Riehl, of Flatbush. She was then Miss Jessie Bennett.

Since the day of the wedding, she and Riehl had lived together in Flatbush, except when he was at sea. Riehl declared that the only woman who had any claim on him was Margaret. The statement of Lizzie he declared to be false from beginning to end.

If she was married, he said, it must be to a man who was his double, as he had never met her before in his life. In default of bail, Riehl was set to jail to await trial.

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